



WHITESTOWN LAUNCHES 'YOUTH COUNCIL'

9-12TH Graders Encouraged to Apply for Seat on Youth Council

For Immediate Release:

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WHITESTOWN, Ind. – Our young residents are our future leaders. Yet they typically have little to no say in forging change or impacting the future of the communities in which they live. That's why Whitestown leaders have formed the new Whitestown Youth Council. The new Youth Council will hold formal meetings, make motions, and create and vote on resolutions and ordinances, just as their senior counterparts do. They will advise the elected Town Council Members about suggested changes concerning issues important to their generation, peers, and the Whitestown community.

"It's important to empower our young citizens to get involved in local government and impact their community." Said Town Council President Eric Miller. "Our Youth Councilors will participate in the Town's decision-making process, develop programs for our youth, and recommend resolutions and ordinances that will help define the future of Whitestown. Some studies have shown that a large percentage of high school students know little about their governments and how they function. These students are the leaders of tomorrow. It is important to expose them to municipal government, and to encourage regular and active civic engagement among our youth."

Seven students from 9-12th grades will be chosen to hold seats on the new Youth Council. The Town Council President and Vice President will each make two appointments to the Youth Council; the other three Town Councilors will make one appointment each. Interested students can email an application, a letter of interest, and any letters of recommendation to his or her Town Council Representative for consideration, or to Assistant Town Manager Tanya Sumner at: tsumner@whitestown.in.gov and she will route the application to the appropriate representative. The only requirement is that the applicant lives within the Whitestown Municipal Boundaries. That includes the neighborhoods of Eagles Nest, Clark Meadows, Anson Neighborhoods, Maple Grove, Walker Farms, Harvest Park, and our Legacy Core. The application and all information can be found on the Town's website: www.whitestown.in.gov

Youth Councilors will each serve a one year term with additional terms possible. They will meet at least three to six times per year and report on their activities to the elected Town Council three times per year. Resolutions and Ordinances passed by the Youth Council will be voted on by the elected Whitestown Town Council and, if passed, become law.

“These young people will be making a difference in their community. They will have powers and be an advisory board to the elected Town Council. We have smart, capable young people in this community and they deserve a voice and representation as we shape the future of fast-growing Whitestown.” Said Miller.

Town leaders will begin taking applications immediately and hope to have the new Youth Council seated by Jan. 1st, 2017.

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